

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
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C O R R E C T E D COPY (PARA 2 LINE 31 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MNUC

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MARCH 11 LETTER FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER TO PRIME MINISTER FRASER: QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF FEBRUARY 4. AS YOU KNOW,
I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE IMPLICATIONS OF FURTHER
NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION FOR OUR COMMON SECURITY AND
WELL BEING. INTERNATIONAL PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THE
NON-PROLIFERATION PROBLEM IS ONE OF THE KEY FOREIGN POLICY
GOALS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THAT IS WHY I WAS SO GLAD TO
GET YOUR LETTER OF SUPPORT.

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AS YOU ARE AWARE, WE ARE CURRENTLY MAKING A COMPREHENSIVE
REVIEW OF US NON-PROLIFERATION POLICIES. AMONG OTHER
THINGS, WE ARE ACTIVELY EXAMINING WAYS TO PROVIDE
GUARANTEED FUEL SUPPLIES TO COUNTRIES WHICH ARE WILLING TO
ACCEPT CONSTRAINTS CONSISTENT WITH OUR NON-PROLIFERATION
OBJECTIVES. THIS WILL HELP TO REDUCE PROLIFERATION BY

GIVING NATIONS AN INCENTIVE TO PLACE THEIR NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND NOT TO

ACQUIRE SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES. AS YOU NOTED IN YOUR LETTER, AUSTRALIA'S POTENTIAL AS A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF URANIUM GIVES YOU A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIS ASPECT OF THE SUBJECT. IF THE US, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES COLLABORATE ON POLICIES FOR THE SUPPLY OF NATURAL URANIUM, WE CAN PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN REDUCING THE THREAT OF PROLIFERATION.

IN VIEW OF YOUR GOVERNMENT'S PAST SUPPORT OF NON-PROLIFERATION AND THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACH TO HOLDING EARLY CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN ALLIES WHENEVER POSSIBLE, I WOULD HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WOULD SOON BE IN A POSITION TO ARRANGE EXPLORATORY CONSULTATIONS HERE WITH APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THE BENEFIT OF AUSTRALIAN THINKING. END QUOTE.

2. PRESIDENT'S LETTER IS IN REPLY TO FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER FRASER DATED FEBRUARY 4: QUOTE:

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I HAVE BEEN MOST INTERESTED IN THE VIEWS YOU HAVE EXPRESSED ON THE QUESTION OF STRENGTHENING RESTRAINTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROLIFERATION. FOR AUSTRALIA'S PART WE SHARE THE CONCERNS YOU HAVE EXPRESSED AND FULLY SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING THE NON-PROLIFERATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGIME. THE IMPORTANCE WHICH YOU HAVE ATTACHED TO THIS ACCORDS WITH MY OWN ASSESSMENT THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR INTENSIFIED EFFORTS TO REINFORCE THE CONTROL REGIMES NECESSARY TO PREVENT PEACEFUL NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT FROM GIVING RISE TO THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITIES.

I HAVE NOTED, IN PARTICULAR, THE EMPHASIS YOU HAVE PLACED ON EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THAT PORTION OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CONCERNED WITH SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL, REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM. THIS CORRESPONDS WITH THE EMPHASIS OF THE FIRST REPORT OF OUR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY AND THE INQUIRY RECENTLY CONDUCTED IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. I AM AWARE THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF NEW THINKING INTERNATIONALLY ON ADEQUATE CONTROL OF REPROCESSING AND PLUTONIUM MANAGEMENT, INCLUDING STUDIES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY. I SHALL BE MOST INTERESTED IN THE WAY YOUR POLICIES EVOLVE IN COMING MONTHS.

APART FROM OUR GENERAL COMMITMENT TO NON-PROLIFERATION AUSTRALIA'S PARTICULAR INTEREST - AND PERHAPS OUR SCOPE IN FUTURE TO EXERT INFLUENCE ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS - RELATES TO OUR POTENTIAL AS A SUPPLIER OF URANIUM. AUSTRALIA WOULD CERTAINLY WANT NUCLEAR MATERIAL DERIVING FROM ANY URANIUM IT MAY SUPPLY TO BE SUBJECT TO STRINGENT CONTROL. YOU MAY BE AWARE THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE FINAL DECISIONS ON THE ISSUE OF FUTURE MARKETING OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM UNTIL IT HAS RECEIVED THE FINAL REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN AUSTRALIA.

THE FIRST REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY, WHICH DEALT WITH THE MORE GENERAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN URANIUM EXPORT AND NUCLEAR POWER, STRESSED THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT EFFECTIVE RESTRAINTS EXIST AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROLIFERATION AND IT STRESSED ALSO THE NEED FOR THE FULLEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM EXPORTED BY AUSTRALIA.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE GIVING CLOSE CONSIDERATION TO THESE MATTERS IN THE NEAR FUTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF FORMULATING A NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN POLICY ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS. NATURALLY WE WISH TO TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF ANY NEW THINKING AS IT DEVELOPS IN THIS AREA, ESPECIALLY TO ENSURE THAT OUR POLICIES AND THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES, SUCH AS CANADA, ARE MUTUALLY REINFORCING. AUSTRALIAN OFFICIALS ALREADY HAVE HELD DETAILED AND USEFUL CONSULTATIONS WITH UNITED STATES OFFICIALS AND I AM SURE YOU WOULD AGREE THAT IT IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THIS BE AN ONGOING PROCESS. I BELIEVE THIS CONSTITUTES A PARTICULARLY FERTILE AND IMPORTANT AREA FOR CO-OPERATION AND FOR CO-ORDINATION OF THE POLICIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN VIEW OF CANADA'S WELL-KNOWN INTEREST IN THIS FIELD AND ITS POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT NUCLEAR SUPPLIER, I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO MR. TRUDEAU. END QUOTE.

3. TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY AND IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY THEM TO PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE. SIGNED ORIGINAL HAS BEEN POUCHED TO EMBASSY CANBERRA FOR DELIVERY. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT PRESIDENT HAS AGREED TO GOA REQUEST THAT IT BE AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE TEXTS OF LETTERS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TJWAJDA:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770089-0611
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770354/aaaabvnr.tel
Line Count: 169
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 77e680b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
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Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, MNUC, US, AS, (CARTER, JIMMY), (FRASER, J MALCOLM)
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
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